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I—THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY). Award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) by the President of the United States of America to the following unit of the Armed Forces of the United States is confirmed in accordance with paragraph 9-2, AR 672-5-1. The text of the citation, signed by President Jimmy Carter on 15 January 1981, reads as follows:

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)

FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM

TO

THE INTELLIGENCE AND RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON,
394TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 99TH INFANTRY DIVISION

The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division, distinguished itself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy forces on 16 December 1944 near Lanzerath, Belgium. The German Ardennes Offensive which began the Battle of the Bulge was directed initially against a small sector defended by the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon. Following a two-hour artillery barrage, enemy forces of at least battalion strength launched three separate frontal attacks against the small Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of 18 men. Each attack was successfully repelled by the platoon. The platoon position was becoming untenable as casualties mounted and ammunition was nearly exhausted. Plans were made to break contact with the enemy and withdraw under cover of darkness. Before this could be accomplished, a fourth enemy attack finally overran the position and the platoon was captured at bayonet point. Although greatly outnumbered, through numerous feats of valor and an aggressive and deceptive defense of their position, the platoon inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy forces and successfully delayed for nearly 24 hours a major spearhead of the attacking German forces. Their valorous actions provided crucial time for other American forces to prepare to defend against the massive German offensive. The extraordinary gallantry, determination and esprit de corps of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon in close combat against a numerically superior enemy force are in keeping with the

highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon the Unit and the Armed Forces of the United States.

II—DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 25 July 1963, the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy is awarded posthumously to:

Corporal (then Private First Class) *William James (Tsakanikas)*, , United States Army, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism against armed enemy forces at Lanzerath, Belgium, on 16 December 1944, while serving with the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. Following a relentless early morning artillery barrage, Corporal James courageously volunteered to probe the enemy area to gather intelligence information. Returning later to the platoon position, he reported small arms fire nearby. Knowing an enemy attack was imminent, he moved with daring boldness to the most forward foxhole position. Soon, two columns of German paratroopers were sighted marching on the road through Lanzerath about 200 yards from his position. Corporal James fearlessly engaged the enemy with devastating small arms fire inflicting many casualties. Throughout the day, he fired his weapon point-blank at the enemy and helped repel three separate frontal attacks despite being outnumbered fifteen to one. On the second attack, Corporal James left his foxhole and boldly manned an exposed .50 caliber machine gun where he increased the hail of fire on the advancing enemy. As the third frontal attack began, he ran in the face of withering fire to a forward foxhole where he placed effective point-blank "grease gun" fire on the enemy. During the fourth and final attack, Corporal James emptied his last rounds of ammunition at the enemy soldiers attacking from the rear. As he prepared to escape from the encirclement, a burst of automatic weapons fire ripped through the right side of his face with the impact slamming him to the bottom of the foxhole where he was captured at gun point. Although seriously wounded, he continued to struggle until he finally passed out from loss of blood. Corporal James' courage and refusal to surrender despite insurmountable odds were responsible for inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and delaying their advance for nearly 18 hours. Corporal James' heroic actions reflect great credit on him and the United States Army. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

III—DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 25 July 1963, the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy is awarded to:

Captain (then First Lieutenant) *Lyle J. Bouck, Jr.*, , Infantry, United States Army, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism against armed enemy forces at Lanzerath, Belgium, on 16 December 1944, while serving as Platoon Leader, Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. During the morning hours, Captain Bouck and his platoon were

manning observation posts and in a defensive position on the right flank of the 99th Infantry Division when the position came under heavy attack by enemy forces. Knowing the importance of defending this position and delaying the enemy's advance, Captain Bouck rallied his men to repel the enemy at all costs. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, he moved from position to position encouraging his men to continue to fight. His efforts were directly responsible for his platoon inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, repelling them during three separate attacks, and delaying their advance for 18 hours. Finally, out of ammunition and hopelessly outnumbered and surrounded by the enemy, he was overwhelmed by the enemy forces and captured at gun point. Captain Bouck's extraordinarily heroic actions against insurmountable odds contributed materially to the allied success at the Battle of the Bulge, and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Sergeant Major (then Technical Sergeant) *William L. Slape*.

, United States Army, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism against armed enemy forces at Lanzerath, Belgium, on 16 December 1944, while serving as Platoon Sergeant, Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. Following a relentless early morning artillery barrage, Sergeant Major Slape volunteered to occupy an observation post in the village of Lanzerath vacated moments earlier by a friendly tank destroyer unit. Trapped on the second floor of the house by the advancing enemy forces, he fired at the enemy on the first floor of the house and escaped out the back door. Upon entering a wooded area, another enemy squad opened fire on him. Continually firing his weapon and advancing on the enemy position, he managed to kill the entire squad. As he then ran west across a road, enemy machine gun fire opened up on him, but he managed to return to the platoon position. Later, while occupying a foxhole, he fired his rifle at point-blank range at the enemy soldiers and helped repel three separate German frontal attacks. Twice he left his foxhole, exposing himself to enemy fire, to man a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a jeep. On this second occasion, enemy automatic weapons fire struck the machine gun knocking him to the ground with the force of the impact. He then eluded the enemy gunfire and returned to the foxhole. There, he continued to fire a .30 caliber light machine gun and his rifle at the enemy. Finally, out of ammunition and hopelessly outnumbered and surrounded by the enemy, he was overwhelmed and captured by the enemy forces at gun point. Sergeant Major Slape's extraordinary heroism and inspiring leadership against insurmountable odds were responsible for the platoon inflicting heavy casualties on the attacking enemy forces thereby delaying their advance for 18 hours. Sergeant Major Slape's heroic actions reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Sergeant (then Private First Class) *Risto Milosevich*,

, United States Army, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism against armed enemy forces at Lanzerath, Belgium, on 16 December

1944, while serving with the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. Following a relentless early morning artillery barrage, Sergeant Milosevich sighted two columns of German paratroopers marching on the road through Lanzerath about 200 yards from the platoon's position. When the German unit launched an attack, Sergeant Milosevich boldly and single-handedly manned a .30 caliber light machine gun. Simultaneously feeding the belt and operating the machine gun, he placed voluminous automatic weapons fire on the Germans who were concentrating their assault to the front and right of his assigned defensive sector. During this assault, he spotted and cut down an enemy soldier attempting to throw a grenade inside the defensive perimeter. When his machine gun jammed, he continued to suppress the attack with remarkably rapid and accurate fire from his individual weapon. Joined by his platoon sergeant as another attack began, Sergeant Milosevich fed the belt to a machine gun until it burned out. He then began removing ammunition from the useless machine gun belts for use in his rifle so that he could continue to repel the enemy soldiers who outnumbered the platoon fifteen to one. Sergeant Milosevich's dauntless efforts and sustained weapons fire throughout the day contributed immensely to the platoon's ability to stop three separate frontal attacks. Finally, hopelessly outnumbered and out of ammunition, he was overwhelmed and forcefully captured in his foxhole by the enemy. Sergeant Milosevich's extraordinary heroism and refusal to surrender despite insurmountable odds were responsible for inflicting heavy casualties on the attacking enemy forces and delaying their advance for nearly 18 hours. Sergeant Milosevich's actions reflect great credit on him and the United States Army. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

IV—SILVER STAR. By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918, a Silver Star for gallantry in action is awarded to:

Private First Class (then Private) *John B. Creger*, , United States Army, for heroism on 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Private First Class (then Private) *Louis J. Kalil*, , United States Army, for heroism on 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Corporal *Aubrey P. McGehee, Jr.*, , United States Army, for heroism on 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Corporal (then Private First Class) *Jordan H. Robinson*, , United States Army, for heroism on 16 December 1944, while a

member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Private First Class (then Private) *James R. Silvola*, United States Army, for heroism on 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

V—BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces is awarded posthumously to:

Private *Robert D. Adams*, United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

VI—BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces is awarded posthumously to:

Private *Robert J. Baasch*, United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

VII—BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces is awarded posthumously to:

Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant) *William R. Dustman*, United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

VIII—BRONZE STAR MEDAL. By direction of the President, under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962, a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against hostile forces is awarded to:

Private First Class (then Private) *Clifford R. Fansher*, United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award

is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Sergeant First Class (then Technician Third Grade) *James Fort*, , United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Sergeant (then Corporal) *Samuel L. Jenkins*, , United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Private *Joseph A. McConnell*, , United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Corporal (then Private First Class) *Robert H. Preston*, , United States Army, for herosim from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant) *George H. Redmond*, , United States Army, for heroism from 10 to 16 December 1944, while a member of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 394th Infantry Regiment, 99th Infantry Division. (This award is authorized under the provisions of Public Law 96-145, dated 14 December 1979.)

[DAPC-POS-A]

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

ROBERT M. JOYCE
Brigadier General, United States Army
The Adjutant General

E. C. MEYER
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

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